holders. The universities and academe are free to take up various studies and the Government has no control over the same.

In so far as quality of higher education is concerned, various steps have been initiated. Processes for review of "deemed to be universities" are under way. A legislative proposal for mandatory accreditation of higher education institutions is under consideration of the Government. Another legislative proposal for the prohibition of unfair practices in technical educational institutions, medical educational institutions and universities is also under consideration.

Provision of modern education in Sanskrit schools

†1764. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been formulated by Government to give advantage of modern education to Sanskrit schools being run in traditional way in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the plan;

(c) the total number of schools providing Sanskrit education in the country at present where degrees like Shastri and Acharya are given;

(d) whether there is an arrangement to provide any economic assistance to these Sanskrit institutes at present; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (RSkS), a Deemed University, implements a Scheme for the Development of Sanskrit Education which also provides for financial assistance for teachers for modern subjects in Traditional Sanskrit Pathasalas/Mahavidyalayas. Under this Scheme, financial assistance for appointment of a maximum of three teachers in modern subjects, for purchase of computer and honorarium for a part time computer teacher can be provided to the Traditional Sanskrit Pathasalas/Mahavidyalayas. The registered/affiliated Pathasalas/Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas can send their proposals under this Scheme to the RSkS through the concerned State Governments.

(c) 11 Sanskrit Universities in the country are awarding different degrees like Shastri, Acharya or their equivalent. In addition, there are general Universities in India, which also award Post Graduate degrees in Sanskrit.

(d) and (e) 89 Institutions located in different States have been provided with financial assistance for 159 teachers of modern subjects amounting to Rs.1.15 crore for the year 2008-2009 by Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan. University Grants Commission has released grants amounting to Rs.39.39 crores to various Sanskrit Universities in 2008-2009.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.